The decline in consumption of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers during 1992-93 is mainly due to the increase in their prices consequent on their decontrol with effect from 25-8-92.

(c) The entire requirement of potassic fertilisers in the country is met through imports as the country does not have any known reserves of potash. The production of phosphates in 1993-94 is likely to be 19 lakh tonnes in nutrient terms as compared to 23.06 lakh tonnes during 1992-93.

(d) The concession of Rs. 1000/- per tonne on indigenous DAP, proportionate per tonne concession on indigenous complexes and Rs. 340/- per tonne on indigenous SSP has decreased their sale prices to farmers and has contributed to improving production of these fertilisers by the fertiliser industry in the country.

**Sophisticated equipment to detect persons lying in rubble in Maharashtra**

2078. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will thhe Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that several offers to send sophisticated equipment that can detect the persons breathing in rubble to speed up the rescue operations in the earthquake affected areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the countries which have come forward to offer such sophisticated equipment to detect the persons breathing in rubble in the earthquake affected areas; and

(c) whether Government have taken a decision to accept such offers, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Locusts attack in Rajasthan**

2079. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any plan to control attack of locusts swarms in Rajasthan as it is feared that the locusts may reappear in Rajasthan within three to four years, indicating the Central assistance given so far under "Operation Locusts Control" to the State Government; and

(b) whether any official level meeting for the exchange of information between India and Pakistan held so far to control and watch the future locusts movement, indicating also the help given so far by the F.A.O. (Food and Agricultural Organisation) in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Locust control in the Scheduled Desert Area in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana is the responsibility of the Central Government. For this purpose, a permanent organisation called Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) has been functioning since 1939. The Government has sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 3.00 crores for strengthening the infrastructural facilities. For effective control of locust incursions during summer, 1993, an additional amount of Rs. 2.80 crores was provided. Besides, international assistance was sought and received through the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

During the recent locust control campaign, the following Central assistance was extended to the State Government of Rajasthan:—Insecticides (479.0 MT of BHC 10 per cent dust), hand dusters (3059 Nos.), power dusters (15 Nos.) and vehicle mounted ULVA-MAST sprayers (1 No.). Besides, both ground and aerial operations were carried out for